

originally filed drawing sheet for Fig. 15B. An extra copy of the original drawing sheet with changes indicated in red, is also attached.

On page 2 of the Office Action mailed July 6, 2001, the Examiner maintains that reference numerals "410" and "390" are not shown. Applicants respectfully suggest that both reference numeral "410" and "390" are shown in the originally filed drawing sheet for Fig. 15A. A copy of the originally filed drawing sheet for Fig. 15A is enclosed, highlighting reference numerals "410" and "390."

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(i) as indicated below. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(ii), all amended paragraphs are reproduced below in clean form. Marked up copies of the amended paragraphs as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii) are provided in the Appendix A to this Response.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 7, line 14. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

Using appropriate controls, for example knob 37 connected to an electrical switch (not shown) may be used to connect motor 28 windings to DC voltage of a first polarity, an opposite second polarity, to decreased magnitude voltage of either polarity, or to no DC voltage at all. The result is to cause belt rotation in a clockwise direction (e.g., as indicated by arrows 20), in a counter-clockwise direction, to reduce motor rotational speed from high to low, or to halt all movement of the belt by disconnecting operating voltage from motor 28. As shown in Fig. 1, control 37 enables a user to cause belt rotation until the desired object (typically a CD enclosed within a jewel case container 18) reaches the top region 11 of the rack (or tower), at which

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region (as well as at the bottom most region) the containers fan-out, which facilitates their manual removal from the rack by a human hand. Normally, in the vertical belt regions 13, the containers 18 are retained so closely to one another that their removal from the holders would be difficult. However the fan-out that occurs in turnaround region 11 eases user-removal of a container 18 from the rack.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 7, line 31. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

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Racks 10 such as depicted in Figs. 1, 9, and 10 that rotate a linked-together loop 23 formed from holders 32 that retain only a single container 18 will be referred to herein as single loop racks. By contrast, rack embodiments such as shown in Fig. 15A rotate linked-together loops 310, 320 formed from similar holders, whereas the rack embodiment of Fig. 15C rotates a loop 310 formed from linked-together holders 150 or 150' that can each retain two or more objects. Racks such as shown in Figs. 15A and 15C will be referred to herein as multi-loop racks.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 8, line 29. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

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In the embodiments described in the parent application, the internal surfaces of fingers 34 and 35 preferably included projections 35a and 34b (see Figs. 4 and 5). These arms and projections promoted receiving the left and right edges of a container 18, which would be releasably and frictionally retained until selected and removed from holder 32 by a user. Projections 35a and 34a are sized and positioned to interlock with mating slots or depressions (e.g., slot 31a in Fig. 4A) that are formed on the sides of container 18.

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Containers 18 typically are manufactured with two such slots on the left and right side of the jewel case (a total of four slots). The slots are formed to produce interior tabs that can retain printed information concerning the CD within the jewel case. In the present invention, mating between holder arm projections 35a, 34a and jewel case slots 31a (and corresponding 31b, not shown) can provide a positive coupling between containers and holders. The somewhat flexible nature of fingers 34 and 35, holder 32 preferably having been formed from ABS type plastic, further contributes to the retention of a CD jewel case.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 13, line 9. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

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Turning now to Figs. 14A and 14B, improved jewel case holders are depicted. Holder 32 in Fig. 14A in many ways is similar to holder 32 as depicted in Figs. 4 and 5, except that side projections 35a and 34a are replaced with projecting bumps or ridges 100A and 100B. Ridges 100A and 100B are formed on the inner, jewel case facing, surface of upper and lower holder walls 120A and 120B. These ridges preferably are injection molded when holder 32 is fabricated and frictionally retain the projecting ridge that is formed on the perimeter of CD jewel cases. The ridges may be formed as a series of separate bump-like projections, and/or as continuous projections. In Fig. 14A, ridges 100A and 100B are setback a distance D1 of about 0.275" from the inner surface of rear wall 130 of the holder, have a length L1 of about 0.3" and have a maximum vertical projection of about 0.07". In cross-section the ridges have a somewhat half-circle smoothed profile. Ridges 100A, 100B need not be formed as continuous projections, and may instead be formed as one or more separate bump-like projections. Regardless of their specific configuration, projections or ridges 100A and 100B help frictionally retain a jewel case within holder 32, even if the jewel case is inserted upside down. By contrast, the configuration of Fig. 4 required jewel cases to be properly aligned because recesses 31a with

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cont'd

which holder projections 35a and 34a mated were formed only on the edges of the jewel case closest to the hinged jewel case lid. Other ridge configurations and/or positions could instead be used, and indeed projections or ridges 100A, 100B could be replaced with strips of rubber or other material to help frictionally retain a jewel case inserted into holder 32.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 18, line 1. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

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Central base portion 360 preferably includes a compartment for batteries B1 that can power motor 28, and optionally includes electronics 390 associated with an optional barcode scanning system 400 disposed in a clip-on type lamp unit 410 that includes a light source 420, for example at least one light emitting diode (LED). Lamp unit 410 attaches to a circular region at the upper portion of vertical support member 330, which region can be similar in size to the region to which control 37 is attached at the upper portion of vertical support member 340. Electrical contacts 430 in the base portion of unit 410 mate with contacts 440 in vertical support member 330. If no lamp unit is provided, the otherwise open circular region in the upper portion of member 330 can be plugged with a circular knob, similar to control 37. Electrical wiring or traces interconnecting lamp unit 410 to power source B1 (or external power provided via input jack J1) and, if present, to circuit 390 are disposed in or on the interior surface of vertical support member 330.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 18, line 28. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

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An optional handheld remote unit 460 includes keys 470, a power source 480 and an output transducer

490, and permits a user to cause electronics 390 (or at least a portion of the electronics) to recognize a user-desired barcode 450 when scanned by unit 410. Unit 460 can transmit desired barcode information to rack 400 using, without limitation, ultra sound, radio frequency, infra red transmissions. An appropriate sensor (SENS) detects the transmitted information, which is coupled to electronics 390. A user desiring to select a certain CD, a particular song, or perhaps a particular digital data base, or a software routine can input on remote unit 460 the appropriate identifying information, which is then transmitted to the sensor (SENS). As the two belts 310, 320 rotate, scan codes carried by any jewel cases within scan range of unit 410 are identified by unit 410, and electronics 390 can cause motor 28 to cease rotation. If desired, cessation of motor rotation can be intentionally delayed by electronics 390, to permit belt rotation to bring the desired jewel case to a more vertically upright disposition, e.g., case 18' in Fig. 15A. Remote unit 460 may be a modified or unmodified generic control such as used on TVs and VCRs, or it may be an IR or Bluetooth-compliant PDA or laptop or desktop computer. Rather than manually key in the barcode per se, preferably remote unit 460 can transmit an abbreviated code that represents the full barcode of the desired CD.

Please delete the paragraph which begins on page 23, line 1. Please replace the deleted paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

Although the various preferred embodiments of a rack depicts jewel cases 18 containing a CD 15, as indicated in the upper most portion of Fig. 150C, a container 18 can retain other than a CD. Thus, container 18 may contain, for example, a baseball trading card 15' or other memorabilia. Understandably a rack intended to retain baseball trading cards could utilize holders 32, 150, 150' that preferably were scaled down in size to retain objects smaller than CD jewel boxes.
